

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 SAM-01

SY-05 AID-05 CPR-01 IO-13 DODE-00 CU-02 /064 W

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FM AMEMBASSY KIGALI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4179

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PDIP, OEXC, RW, US

SUBJECT: US VISIT BY RWANDAN FOREIGN MINISTER

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH CHARGE JUL 21, GOR FONMIN, LT. COL. ALOYS NSEKALIJE, NOTED HE WOULD LEAD GOR DEL TO 31ST UNGA THIS FALL. IN RESPONSE QUESTION, FONMIN INDICATED DESIRE EXTEND STAY FOLLOWING HIS ADDRESS TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON OCT. 6 IN ORDER VISIT OTHER US CITIES AND MEET USG OFFICIALS. NSEKALIJE THEN PROPOSED AN EIGHT-DAY PERIOD OF TRAVEL AND CONSLUTATIONS, AND ASKED FOR SUGGESTIONS ON POSSIBLE ITEMS OF INTEREST. WHEN IT POINTED OUT THAT PERIOD WAS EXTREMELY SHORT FOR MEANINGFUL PROGRAMMING INTERNATIONAL VISITORS, FONMIN INDICATED HE HAD ALREADY DISCUSSED POSSIBILITIES OF TRIP IN GENERAL TERMS WITH PRESIDENT HABYARIMANA, AND THAT THE 8-DAY EXTENSION TO HIS UNGA MISSION WOULD BE MAXIMUM ABSENCE FROM RWANDA PERMITTED BY PRESIDENT.

2. DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL EMB DIFFICULTIES IN PAST YEAR PROGRAMMING IV'S, ARISING MAINLY FROM GOR OPPOSITION SENIOR GOR OFFICIALS BEING ABSENT FOR EXTENDED PERIODS. NSEKALIJE'S EAGERNESS VISIT US COULD PROVE UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY GAIN MAXIMUM IMPACT ON PERSON WHO COMMONLY REGARDED AS SECOND MOST INFLUENTIAL OFFICER UNDER PRESIDENT IN ALL NATIONAL POLICIES. PREVIOUS US VISIT UN-CONNECTED AND LIMITED TO NEW YORK/WASHINGTON.

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3. IN ADDITION CALLS ON SENIOR DEPT/AID AND OTHER USG OFFICIALS,

EMB PROPOSES ITINERARY INCLUDE I.A. SPACE TECHNOLOGY CENTERS --
E.G., HUNTSVILLE (SIDE TRIP TO NEW ORLEANS), HOUSTON --
WEST COAST AND POSSIBLY LARGE MILITARY INSTALLATION. UPON
DELIVERY FORMAL INVITATION, EMB WILL SOLICIT FONMIN VIEWS
REGARDING ADDITIONAL POINTS OF INTEREST.

4. ON JULY 22 FONMINISTRY OFFICIAL INQUIRED AS TO WHETHER
AND WHEN USG INVITATION FOR VISIT WOULD BE FORTHCOMING,
INDICATING FONMIN'S DESIRE HAVE FORMAL INVITATION IN HAND
AND SECURING PRESIDENT'S FINAL APPROVAL BEFORE LATTER
CHANGED HIS MIND.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: WITH INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORTATION COSTS
COVERED BY GOR, EMB ASSUMES PARTIAL IV TO COVER IN-COUNTRY
TRANSPORTATION/PER DIEM VIP ESCORT COSTS WOULD NOT POSE MAJOR
DIFFICULTY AND WOULD PROPOSE USE ONE OF ALLOCATED IV SLOT
FOR FONMIN TRAVEL. WOULD APPRECIATE DEPT. CONCURRENCE
EXTEND FORMAL INVITATION SOONEST.
HIGGINS

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